

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## TRIBUTE TO MARIE BEAVER

• Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I rise today to honor a good friend of mine for the work she has done for women in recovery. Marie Beaver is retiring after 18 years as the executive director of Rea of Hope, a very successful recovery program and facility in my hometown of Charleston, WV, which she built from the ground up.

Although Marie is not a native of West Virginia, she found her way to our State as a result of her marriage to her husband, Carl Beaver. Shortly after her arrival, Marie was hired and started working to create Rea of Hope just before the full scope of the addiction epidemic was recognized.

Working with little money and a lot of help from volunteers, including the organization's board of directors, and donated labor from a work release program, Marie transformed a deteriorating home on the East End of Charleston into our State's first recovery home for women.

Marie's personal experience as a recovering addict shaped the foundation of Rea of Hope as an abstinence only, no tolerance recovery home. Residents are expected to find and hold a job, pay rent, attend 12-step meetings, and take responsibility for the mistakes of their past and pay their debts. Personal responsibility is a tenet of the program and Rea of Hope has a long list of successful graduates who have completed their high school and college degrees, are employed in both the public sector and privately owned businesses, are becoming first-time homebuyers, and, most importantly, are being reunited with their children, providing safe, loving homes.

The home's success is how I met Marie. The White House Drug Czar under President George W. Bush, John P. Walters, visited Rea of Hope with me early in my congressional career. Marie was a gracious hostess, and the Drug Czar was very impressed with what he saw and experienced. A rose bush was brought from the White House on that visit, which was planted, and I believe is still in Rea of Hope's front yard.

As a next step, Marie realized that there were no affordable, safe apartments to rent for graduates of the program in the Charleston area. She began arranging financing and buying apartment properties and renting them to the graduates. As a result, graduates are able to learn about renting and the associated costs, but do not have to worry about unruly neighbors or drugs or alcohol being on the premises. The apartments have created a sober community where women take care of one another and their children, as built-in baby sitters when mothers have to work or attend a 12-step meeting. This successful model of recovery has helped 250 women from 44 West Virginia counties learn to live sober, responsible

lives. The annual fundraiser named, "Miracle on Lee Street" reflecting Rea of Hope's address is a very fitting name. If success is measured by the difference you make, Rea of Hope's success is immeasurable.

Marie and her husband Carl have decided to retire and return to her home State of South Carolina to be near family, the ocean, and her beloved Clemson Tigers. Marie made West Virginia her home over the nearly 20 years she lived here, cultivating friendships, whether professionally or personally throughout the State. She put such a positive face on recovery and exemplified that long-term recovery is possible and so rewarding.

Thank you, Marie, for the terrific work you have done and the example you and Rea of Hope have set as a model for recovery. Marie has established a high standard, and I am sure Rea of Hope will maintain the quality of service that she performed.

I wish Marie the best, and like all who know her, I will miss her. I am proud to call Marie friend and fellow West Virginian.●

## REMEMBERING JACE WARD

• Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, today I wish to recognize a fellow Kansan, Jace Ward, for his incredible fight against cancer, inspiring advocacy work, and unyielding display of hope in the face of a terminal illness. At the age of 22, Jace passed away surrounded by family and friends, and today, I commemorate the remarkable accomplishments during his short life.

Jace was born on February 18, 1999, in Wichita, KS. He enjoyed a fantastic childhood in Inman and then moved to Wamego at age 12, where he excelled in school and extracurricular activities. After graduating from Wamego High School in 2017, Jace attended the University of Kansas, studying law and business with scholarships under the Law Education Accelerated Degree Program and the Business Scholars Program.

Following a rollover car accident in February 2019, Jace started to experience eye problems. After an MRI, it was revealed that Jace had an aggressive and particularly deadly form of brain cancer called diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma, DIPG. It generally affects children between the ages of 5 to 9 and has no chance of survival as no effective treatment exists. In fact, only 10 percent of patients survive 2 years after their diagnosis, and less than 1 percent survive past 5 years. Despite these unforgiving odds, Jace decided to make the most of the time he had left.

After being diagnosed with DIPG, Jace transferred to Kansas State University—KSU—on scholarship and majored in business entrepreneurship. He was awarded a bachelor of business administration degree posthumously from KSU, but while he was studying, he also championed advocacy and awareness for pediatric cancer.

While attending KSU, Jace worked vigorously for California-based Emerson Collective as a member of the Health Team, which focuses on advocating and investing funds to combat rare cancers like his. As a member of this organization, he visited with Federal officials in Congress and various agencies at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to raise awareness. Notably, Jace delivered a keynote address at a congressional briefing on DIPG, spoke to the NIH on patient ownership of genomic data, and met with over 67 congressional offices, including mine. As a Member of the House of Representatives and his Congressman, I cosponsored a House resolution expressing support for honoring a day towards DIPG to raise awareness and encourage research into cures for DIPG and other pediatric cancers.

As a business major keenly aware of private sector dynamics and pharmaceutical manufacturing, Jace also helped establish partnerships with biopharmaceutical innovators and foundations. He regularly brought together foundations to partner with him on aspirations he had to fill gaps in research and patient navigation. Jace conceptualized a DIPG Patient Navigation System to direct patients to molecular diagnostics and clinical trials, attracted the support of 20 top doctors and several foundations to open this novel system in November. Because of Jace, over 300 tumors previously held in storage awaiting funding for genomic sequencing are now being sequenced added to quadruple those available for researchers. Jace inspired an astonishing \$5 million in funding for pediatric brain cancer research and treatment, and it is because of him that over 200 patients received expanded access to an investigational drug.

When asked about what he wanted to do with the remaining time he had left and whether he would devote it towards travel or other personal experiences, Jace responded, "I can't die, I'm busy." Jace ignored the ticking clock tethered to him to become a thundering voice for future patients, always putting the need to advance science and protect younger kids and their legacies before his own.

As a physician for nearly 30 years, I am no stranger to cancer or the miracle of hope when faced with the heart-breaking news of a diagnosis. Even during the toughest of times, I have witnessed God in my patient's grace and acceptance; Jace is no exception. I am profoundly honored to have had the opportunity to get to know him and his remarkable family. Jace is survived by his loving parents, Roger and Lisa, and his sister, Brooke.

I ask my colleagues and all Kansans to join me in remembering Jace's courageous fight, his ability to rise to the challenge, and to make a lasting impact in the fight against pediatric cancer.●